



MARCH 2026

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A MESSAGE FROM DEANNA MACKEY

As I moved my clock forward this past weekend and mentally welcomed spring, I reflected on how KPBS has also moved forward toward sunnier days. Much of this is thanks to you and your support. I am excited to share what we have planned next to serve our members.

Let's start with honoring Women's History Month. The Gratitude Collective is hosting a [special lunch reception and panel series on March 27](#), celebrating visionary women who shape our San Diego community. The first panel explores the experiences of women business founders who are "first" in their field and how they've navigated leadership triumphs and challenges. The second panel explores women leaders who have used their success to support the next generation of women entrepreneurs. For more information on how to attend Gratitude Collective events, visit [here](#).

This month we are also hosting our first [One Small Step Experience](#). The event will feature a respectful conversation between special guests from San Diego's business and labor community, followed by audience table conversations to discuss and share personal viewpoints about selected issues affecting our region. The focus is on modeling that even if you have a different political perspective from your neighbor, you can still have a respectful discussion. This event sold out in a couple of days. I believe that's a sign people are hungry for the type of civil discourse that is central to the One Small Step program. We will host another event in June. Be on the lookout for the announcement in your email in the coming months.

I am frequently asked how KPBS is doing in light of the loss of federal funding. I am pleased to share that we have 19,000 new members who have joined us since July 2025. You may recall I previously said we need 20,000 to fill the budget gap left by the rescission of federal support. This amazing member growth, combined with increased donations from long-time supporters, has filled our budget gap through June 2026. Making up the gap allows us to retain the level of service you value and expect from us.

What happens next? The key to our long-term stability is to maintain this level of giving. The loss of federal funding is an annual \$4.3 million challenge. We know the reality of "crisis giving" and that it does not last forever. The further we get from the crisis, the

less people give. However, we are optimistic that both our long-time and new members believe in the same thing - KPBS provides an essential service and it must continue.

I have one last exciting announcement - we are restarting our station tours for PC in April! We will offer station tours twice a month on pre-set days. Details will be coming out soon and I look forward to welcoming you to the building.

All of this joy and activity is possible because of you. Your support ensures KPBS continues to be San Diego's storyteller. We give voice to local stories that might otherwise go untold. When you support KPBS, you protect San Diego's place in history. Together, we will ensure KPBS' essential public services continue for generations to come. Thank you.



Deanna Mackey

Deanna Mackey
KPBS General Manager

PRODUCERS CLUB EVENT



VINNEE TONG



KATIE ANASTAS



KORI SUZUKI



JAKE GOTTA

Newsroom Roundtable: Behind the Byline

Join us for an exclusive panel conversation featuring KPBS newsroom reporters as they pull back the curtain on the stories shaping our community. We'll dive into recent compelling projects, including **Katie Anastas's** insightful series on the rising cost of living in San Diego. A deep investigation into the local impacts of the environmental and economic challenges facing the Imperial Valley by **Kori Suzuki**. As well as innovative ways the KPBS news team is leveraging social media platforms to reach new and more diverse audiences with stories that truly matter with social media host and reporter **Jake Gotta**. This is your chance to hear directly from the journalists, explore their reporting process, and gain a unique perspective on the critical issues affecting the San Diego region.

Thursday, April 23, 2026

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

The Bahia Resort Hotel

998 W Mission Bay Dr, San Diego, CA 92109

Cost: Free

Fair Market Value: \$40

RSVP

gratitude collective

Join us for **Leading the Way: San Diego Women Founders**

Celebrate Women's History Month and join members of [The Gratitude Collective](#) for ***Leading the Way: San Diego Women Founders***, an afternoon of celebrating our local woman leaders in our community. Enjoy a champagne reception and lunch, followed by two panels:

Panel 1: Women Who Innovate

This panel explores the experiences of women business founders who have experienced being the "first" and how they've navigated leadership triumphs and challenges. This panel will feature Maya Madsen; founder and CEO of Maya's Cookies, Maritza Diaz; Technology Founder and CEO of ITJ USA, and will be moderated by Felena Hanson, Founder of Hera Hub.

Panel 2: Women Who Elevate

This panel explores women leaders who have used their success to support the next generation of women entrepreneurs. This panel will feature Alycia M. Huston; Founder and CEO of The Culture Cru, Alicia Quinn Kitagawa; Executive Director of Life Science Cares San Diego, and will be moderated by Jade Hindmon, the host of [KPBS Midday Edition](#).

Friday, March 27, 2026

11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

KPBS Public Media

5200 Campanile Drive, San Diego, CA 92182

RSVP

New Producers Club Page

Our Producers Club website page has gotten a refreshed look! Check out our new page to see all the new features, including our new member benefits grid to compare the different Producers Club levels: <https://www.kpbs.org/pc/>

Sustaining Members Update

As previously announced, the Producers Club Silver level is now at \$1,500. Current members are grandfathered for one year, but you have the opportunity to upgrade your support now.

[If you are a Sustaining Producers Club Silver member and would like to update your sustaining monthly pledge now, please click here.](#)

For any questions, please contact Ashley Carbonell at acarbonell@kpbs.org or 619-594-6731.



'Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me!' LIVE

"Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me!" brightens up your week with news, comedy, and games -- public radio style! Now's your chance to see the hilarity in action when Peter Sagal, Bill Kurtis, and the WWDTM panelists make their way to San Diego for a live show on April 30 at the San Diego Civic Theatre. [Click here to purchase your ticket!](#)

KPBS and "Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me" have been long-time partners, bringing the best in public media news and humor to you. With the rescission of federal funding and the loss of \$4.3 million annually to KPBS' budget, your support means more than ever in helping keep shows like "Wait Wait... Don't Tell Me" on our air.

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Your Producers Club membership brings trusted news and high-quality programs to the whole community.

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